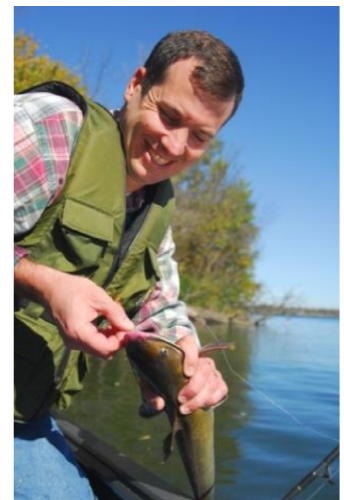


YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

THE FUTURE OF HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING IN IOWA

Chuck Gipp, Director | Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Executive Summary

Nearly 370 people helped continue to shape the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa by attending 11 public forums held around the state. These forums provided a method for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries, Wildlife and Law Enforcement Bureaus to gather participants' perceptions, opinions and feelings about hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa. These forums were not intended to gather specific quantitative or statistical data sets, but rather to start a conversation with the users of Iowa's natural resources regarding their thoughts and ideas on current hunting, fishing and trapping recreational opportunities and the direction those opportunities should be moving into the future.

Overall, many opportunities provided by the DNR are currently viewed positively by our customers, such as the ability to hunt, fish and trap a variety of species; youth hunting, fishing and education programs' the relatively new shooting sports programs; the increased fishing access on public and private waters; and the private lands hunting access program.

Forum participants also discussed areas of improvement they would like to see, such as the need to expand adult education efforts and public relations; more mentored hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities; increased partnerships and expanded efforts overall in youth involvement.

There are, however, many roadblocks that the DNR and its partners currently face and will continue to face in the attempt to provide and enhance services for its customers. Some of these roadblocks that were identified are loss of habitat; reduced youth involvement; politically-driven decisions instead of science-based decisions in natural resources; adequate funding; public recreational access issues on both private and public lands; the challenge of getting more people outdoors participating in natural resource based recreation when there are so many other demands on people's time; and the cost of participating in some types of recreation.

In the next 12 months, the DNR will continue to assess the information provided by the participants and determine what further data, through surveys or additional focus groups, is needed in order to help make the decisions for the future. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to provide input that these forums offered. The DNR will continue to conduct these forums on a regular basis while expanding efforts to communicate actions that are in direct alignment with topics discussed by participants.

Methodology

In April 2012, DNR staff identified 11 locations for conducting hunting, fishing and trapping public forums. Forums were distributed around the state in both rural and urban locations. The following are locations for the 11 forums that took place from May 15 – June 7, 2012.

- Carroll
- Estherville
- Waverly
- Lake Darling State Park
- Pisgah
- Anamosa
- Red Oak
- Hampton
- Indianola
- McGregor
- Keosauqua

In order to capture the most public input, a variety of methods was used to invite participants to the forum, including letters to local stakeholders and multiple press releases. In addition, invitation letters were also sent to 150 randomly selected sportsmen and women per location who purchased hunting, fishing or trapping licenses at least once in the last 5 years. All invitational materials asked participants to come and participate and provide feedback on future concerns and opportunities and determine the priorities for outdoor recreation.

“How do you want your license dollars invested? How do we convince more hunters and anglers to take to the field? Where will our state be in 20 years? They are your license dollars and your legacy. You can help determine the future of this rich tradition.”

Each forum was kicked off with a video entitled “Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund – A Living Legacy”, a power point presentation delivered by DNR staff on actions taken since the 2010 forums that were specific to participant comments, and an update about the current state of the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (FWTF). The presentation highlighted the services provided to recreational users with local success stories tailored to the location of the forum in the areas of wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement. This information can be found on the DNR’s website at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/legacy.html>.

At the conclusion of the DNR led presentation, the participants were divided up into groups, where feasible, in order to facilitate small group discussion that allowed for the greatest individual participation. DNR staff facilitated these discussions with all comments from participants initially captured on paper and then transferred to electronic format for evaluation and comparison. Three questions were asked of each small group:

1. What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?
2. What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?
3. What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

After all forums were held, comments were analyzed and similar statements organized into thematic categories (Appendix A). On the following pages, categories mentioned in at least five or more forums are listed for each question that was asked of participants. Following each thematic statement in parentheses is the exact number of forums in which the comments were received.

Results

Information gathered through the hunting, fishing and trapping forums in Iowa were qualitative in nature, gathering the participant's perceptions, opinions and feelings. The information collected was not analyzed quantitatively, as the sample size is not reflective of the population, age and diversity of Iowa citizenry. Below are the public comments received which have been categorized into thematic statements that best represent similar comments. For purposes of prioritizing themes of significance, similar comments received in at least 5 meetings are noted below. All comments from the 11 forums can be reviewed in Appendix A.

Public Forum Themes

1. What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Deer Season/Hunting (10)
- Dove Season (7)
- Canada Goose Season/Hunting (7)
- Turkey Season/Hunting (7)
- Greater Opportunities For Recreation (7)
- Trout Program (7)
- Bobcat And Otter Seasons/Population (6)
- Fishing Access Improving (6)
- Fish Stocking (6)
- Youth Hunting And Fishing (6)
- Shooting Sports Improving (5)
- Private Lands Access Program (5)
- Lake Restoration (5)
- Trapping Opportunities (5)
- Hunter Education In Schools (5)

2. What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Loss Of Habitat (11)
- Youth Involvement/Education (10)
- Legislature And Politics Involved In Management (9)
- Funding Issues (9)
- Access Issues (9)
- Animal Rights Groups, Anti-Hunting, Gun Rights (8)
- Invasive Species (8)
- Economy And Cost Of Hunting, Fishing And Boating (8)
- Non-Resident Issues (7)
- Low Pheasant Population (7)
- Leasing Of Land For Hunting (7)

- Competition And Time Commitments (7)
 - Water Quality (6)
 - Lack Of Public Lands (6)
 - Commodity Prices (6)
 - Drop In Licenses And Participation (6)
 - Urbanization(5)
 - Cost Of Land (5)
3. What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?
- Adult Public Relation And Education (10)
 - More Cooperation/Partnering (9)
 - Conservation In Schools, Hunter Education, And Youth Involvement (9)
 - Mentored Hunting, Fishing, Trapping (8)
 - License Fee Increase/Decrease (8)
 - Hunter Access Walk-In Program (6)
 - License Combinations (6)
 - IWILL Sales Tax (6)
 - Increase In Pheasant Population (5)
 - Increase Habitat And Opportunities (5)

Conclusions

Forums held across the state lasted about 2 hours with at least 1- 1.5 hours dedicated to public participation through small group discussions. The general outcome of these forums was very positive and the DNR received many comments encouraging the Department to continue with more forums in the future and seek additional public input. The start of each meeting included a report on programs or actions initiated as a result of the forums conducted in 2010. All three initiatives below were mentioned in either 8 or 10 out of 16 meetings and have had significant positive impact on hunting, fishing and trapping recreation.

- Hunter Access pilot program initiated, which enrolled more landowners and acres in 2011 than expected. (Mentioned in 10 out of 16 meetings)
- A three-year hunting, fishing or combo license including a third fishing pole option fee was approved by the 2012 Iowa Legislature and signed by Governor Branstad. (Mentioned in 8 out of 16 meetings)
- Through the work of stakeholder groups and hunters, a dove hunting season was passed by the 2011 Iowa Legislature and signed by Governor Branstad. The Wildlife Bureau planted additional food plots specific to attracting this species which were ready by the first dove season opener, September 2011. (Mentioned in 10 out of 16 meetings)

After reviewing comments received this concerning increasing participation and improving conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years, three areas of focus rose to the top and are in alignment with comments received in 2010. Recommended opportunities for improvements or enhancements were in the

areas of 1) public relations/education, communications and marketing; 2) youth education and involvement; 3) cooperative efforts and partnering.

Public Relations, Communications and Marketing

Some comments were similar to those received during 2010 forums. Many participants in 2012 were not aware of how their license dollars were used by the Department for the conservation of the resource and for their recreational pursuits. There was extensive discussion surrounding question 3, asking how the DNR in partnership with others can grow participation and conservation in natural resources. Suggestions centered on improving communications through the internet, brochures, public programming, and public meetings. As in 2010, 2012 participants stated that the Department's messages should include success stories, natural resource benefits to the economy and the public, increasing adult education offerings around outdoor skills, and developing "conservation days" for legislators and landowners.

In 2011, the Department launched a new user- friendly website, and increased use of social media (Facebook and Twitter). Additionally, there has been an increase in subscriptions to the DNR's magazine since it was revamped and launched as Iowa Outdoors. It is recognized that these efforts are an improvement in communications with recreational users, but it is just a start in improving and expanding overall efforts in public relations, communication and marketing.

The Department will continue to develop and improve ways to connect with recreational users in Iowa. Specifically, as new initiatives continue to be developed, communication and marketing efforts as seen in the launch of the successful Hunter Access Program, and "Don't Go Overboard" campaign for the new boating intoxication law will continue and expand.

Youth Education and Involvement

As in 2010, youth involvement and education was discussed at length during the forums as it related to threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping from competition with other sports activities as well as a lack of interest and proper education about conservation issues. Considerable discussion focused around getting a conservation course in schools, or at a minimum, having every school teach Hunter Education. The Department has been successful in growing participation in schools through the Archery in the Schools Program and the Scholastic Clay Target Program. However, a mandatory requirement of such programs in schools is not in effect and would be up to the Department of Education. Efforts continue within the Department to design and align natural resources and conservation educational activities and programs to existing Iowa science and P.E. curricula. Natural resource training opportunities for teachers, pre-school through high school, are offered annually, although at this time it is not a mandatory requirement for teachers to teach conservation or outdoor skills in their own classrooms after they attend training. The Department will continue to work with partner groups and the Iowa Department of Education to further expand the number of schools using materials and programs from the Department.

There was also significant discussion around youth involvement outside of the formal education process. Forum participants noted that existing youth seasons for hunting were good, but they want to see more youth participating and engaging in hunting, fishing and trapping. Expanding youth seasons, using other programs such as 4-H, Junior Conservationist or Big Brother, and more after-school youth programs are just some ideas that participants mentioned. Also there was mention of using communication tools such as social media, blogs, and youth specific marketing efforts to get kids interested and engaged. The Department has worked

with before-and-after school programs with some success and has provided programming to various youth groups upon request. These efforts will continue and a DNR educational workgroup, established three years ago, will continue to look for opportunities to expand programming while partnering with interested groups.

The Department also provides opportunities for mentored hunts and some County Conservation Boards provide adult/youth mentored hunts. This discussion at the forums went hand-in-hand with youth and adult involvement in hunting, fishing and trapping. This is an area where to truly succeed the DNR, partners and current recreational users all have to contribute and get people excited about the resource and get outside. It was identified that more mentored hunts are needed for more than just deer hunting. Dove season mentored hunts would be good candidates, as it occurs in an early warm weather season, and short time commitments are needed. Participation and successes with this species could lead to other hunting interests and further involvement in the sport.

When it comes to youth involvement, no entity alone can bridge the gap that has been created, which leads to the third area of focus coming out of the 2012 forums.

Cooperative Efforts and Partnering

The second most discussed theme behind public relations was the need for more cooperation and partnering for natural resources conservation. The DNR embraces working with partners in order to conserve and protect our resources for the future. This is a part of the mission of the Department:

To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

Comments were received from participants about the need to improve sharing the good news stories, including the work that the DNR accomplishes. This was identified as an area where current and past efforts with partners could be communicated more effectively and broadly. Historically, the DNR has great working relationships with many stakeholder groups, but there are growing opportunities to expand and work with non-traditional partners. Participants in the forums specifically mentioned building stronger relationships and partnering more with county conservation boards, hunting and fishing groups, tourism offices, local community partners, service clubs, private industries (Bass Pro, Cabelas, Scheels, etc.), agricultural groups and legislators. One specific comment was captured that sums up efforts in all three areas discussed above: “network with people...make it personal, make relationships...keep grass roots communication.”

Comments received from participants in the 2010 and 2012 forums are essential in helping the Department continue to provide high quality hunting, fishing and trapping experiences in Iowa.

Appendix A

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Carroll Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Hunting in general has been better than ever
- Turkey hunting
- Deer hunting
 - General consensus that there are more quality deer
 - Hunters are happy with the way deer seasons are set
 - Only season during the rut is archery, helps with quality deer management
- HUSH program provides easy outlet for deer so that doe harvest/quality deer management can be maintained.
- Creation of a dove season
 - Relatively cheap sport
 - Should help with recruitment of young hunters
- Waterfowl hunting
 - Return of high numbers of Canada geese
 - Duck hunting has improved
 - DNR/DU partner to provide more areas
 - Better waterfowl management
- Duck and goose hunting
 - Better marsh management
- Pheasant hunting is still a favorite activity, but needs significant improvement
- Missouri River hunting is good, but has been affected by floods
- Increase in public hunting opportunities
- Shooting ranges
- Fishing in general has been better than ever
 - Quality fishing on public waters
- Increased and better fish habitat
- Trout fishing
 - Northeast Iowa trout fishing
 - Urban trout program
- Good river access
 - Interior river walleye fishing is good
 - Missouri River fishing is good, but has been affected by floods
- Private farm pond consultations and fish stockings with the DNR
- Trapping program
- Otter season
 - Increase in otter population
- Bobcat season
- Raising awareness of poaching
- Steep fines for poaching
- Young guns program

- All youth special seasons
- Hunter Education Safety Program
- Shooting Programs in schools
- Bird watching, non-consumptive use opportunities
- Wildlife photography
- Return of bald eagles, viewing opportunities
 - Eagle cam very popular
- Partnerships with NGOs, such as PF, DU, SOAR
- County Conservation Board System
 - CCB's provide good local opportunities by utilizing grant money from FWTF
- Private Land program
 - DNR works with landowners to provide wildlife habitat
- Good interagency cooperation
- Elk Grove management is good
- Dunbar Slough project
- Upper and Lower Morris Area
- Shallow lakes program (hunting and fishing benefits)
 - Water level management
- Open mindedness of new management techniques
- Managing species and seasons
 - Hunters are happy with the way seasons are structured
- Greater awareness and concern for the environment and conservation
- Increased public awareness of water quality issues
 - Water quality improvements
- Value for your dollar for licenses
 - The actual cost of the licenses are very cheap relative to the cost of other aspects of the sport (e.g., guns, ammunition, fishing poles, tackle, trip expenditures)
- State parks are kept up nicely

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Lack of access to land
 - Landowners need to be educated on liability regarding hunting accidents
- Leasing land
 - Non-residents and city dwellers are leasing up all the land
 - Rich people are leasing land, which reduces opportunities for hunting
- Legislative pressure to reduce amount of public (DNR) lands
 - Need BMPs to justify public ownership
 - Need to better negotiate farm leases on public land
 - Not just money, but management practices
- Lack of shooting range opportunities
- High commodity prices
 - Leads to loss of habitat

- Loss of habitat
 - Modern farming techniques
 - Timber is getting bulldozed, creeks are being straightened, waterways are being tilled, terraces are being removed, wetlands are being drained, buffer strips are being torn out
 - If nothing is done we will have nothing left
 - No diversity on the landscape
 - Biological desert
 - Loss of wetlands
 - Extensive tile and drainage network
- Loss of CRP, WRP, etc.
 - Farm bill programs
 - Requirements for CRP make it difficult for landowners who already have good practices or buffer strips to enroll
- Soil conservation practices
 - Declining water quality
 - Severe erosion occurring
 - Rivers are being impacted and have poor water quality
- Lack of grouse hunting habitat
- Lack of pheasants
 - Pheasant hunting drives license sales
 - Lack of winter habitat
- Increase in land value makes public land acquisition difficult
- No license for non-consumptive users
 - Bird watchers use public lands paid for by hunters and anglers, but don't buy licenses
- Need a sales tax increase so that more money can be raised for conservation
- License fees lag behind cost
 - Many hunters and anglers willing to pay more for licenses
 - Buying a license is cheaper than going out to eat for a night
- Not enough money available to impact large scale habitat improvements
- Local issue's on tax basis (county's want to increase tax base)
- General lack of funding
- Not enough hunters recruiting to the sport
- Smaller base of constituents
- Low participation
- Need for more mentors to introduce people to the outdoors
- Single parenting
 - More difficult to get kids outdoors
- Marred image of hunters
 - "Slob hunters" make the sport look bad
- Time commitments and extra-curricular activities
- Lack of public education on the importance and benefits of hunting and fishing
 - If people better understood the economic benefits and the conservation aspect of consumptive use they may be more inclined to support or join the sport
 - The lead issue is controversial and more education would help
 - Some people want lead outlawed
 - Some people want to maintain the use of lead in hunting and fishing
- Lack of understanding and education of hunting and fishing regs
- Need to get the DNR's message out better, utilize media more

- Lack of educational staff
- Need to change public opinion
- Organized efforts against conservation
- Legislators that think they're biologists
 - Legislators don't listen to what the science says, rather they make decisions that benefit their party or themselves
- Politicians who are involved in agriculture are afraid to step on the toes of the lobbyists who fill their coffers
- Legislators want to reduce the amount of public land
- Species of concern impact recreational fishing
 - Can't stock walleye into North Raccoon River because of the Topeka shiner
- Vegetation issues on bodies of water
- Invasive species
- DNR needs to be more accountable and return phone calls

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Expand youth hunting seasons for all species
- Youth crossbow license for deer hunting
- Expand shooting sports in school
 - More archery activities too
 - Continue scholastic shooting sport program
- More staff to get kids outdoors for outdoor classroom opportunities
- Longer term mentoring programs
 - Expand mentoring program
- More participation from partners like the school programs
- Expand hunter education
- More youth friendly
- Increases in family and spouse opportunities
- Get parents interested in outdoor sports
- Environmental education programs
- DNR employees must spend 10% of their time involved in education
- Access to environmental educational tools, wildlife ID, orienteering
- Other outdoor activities, non-consumptive use, geo-caching
- Education on effects of lead shot, promote non-toxic shot at shooting events
- Provide science to the public to educate citizens of IA
- More law enforcement, a few bad sportsman ruin it for everyone else
- Educate public about and get them engaged in our river systems
- Improve communications between DNR and constituents
- Option to voluntarily provide email address when buying licenses
- Classes to educate our legislators
- Partner with legislators
- Elect officials that are on our side
- Have a program where citizens take a legislator hunting or fishing

- More public land is the highest priority
 - More land access
 - Better walk-in areas
- Focus on resource management, conservation 1st
- Adjust license fees, NR turkey
- Increase sales tax to fund IWILL
- Partner with non-consumptive users, private landowners, local groups

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Red Oak Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Lake restoration/water quality
- Deer hunting
- Dove season – good for youth
 - Good that lead shot permitted
- All youth seasons
- Free fishing days
- Non-resident deer season – families get to return
- Walleyes at Viking lake – private donations

- Excellent personnel – training
- Fishing as good as ever been – lake restoration
- Viking lake
- Reduction of deer herd
- Hunter Ed
- Shooting sports
- Deer season structure – spread out hunters
- Better access to lakes
- Accurate maps and informational brochures
- Good mgmt of pub lands along Missouri River before flooding
- Good flow between hunting seasons
- Diverse species – more opportunities
- Healthy animals
- Diverse # of fish species stocked
- Good catfishing in rivers
- Advances in technology
- Informational meetings
- Partnerships w/other NGO's, youth programs
- Data collection and info
- DNR is listening more

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Availability for hunting/fishing land and water access
- Loss of wildlife habitat on private land (agriculture)
- Leased land - reduces availability of public use
- Costs of recreation becoming too high
- Funding for enforcement and mgmt
- Invasive species
- Public land more crowded
- Restrictive rules like dogs, lights for raccoon hunting
- Loss of CRP
- \$7.00 corn/\$14.00 beans
- Media perception of harvest of wildlife and fish – anti-groups. Guns = bad – public perception
- Populations dynamics
- Current sportsmen not passing along the tradition
- Loosing rural population
- Low numbers of pheasant/quail
- Movies that portray hunting in a bad light – giving animals personality
- Plat books incorrect labeling lands
- Fine structure not strong enough for serious violators
- Non-resident costs too high
- Cost of youth tags
- Weather
- River access

- Lack of ethics
- Lack of shooting ranges
- Control/maintenance areas – vandalism
- Lack of participation – declining recreation

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Support Hunter Ed
- Continued management of stocked lakes
- More funding
 - License Fees
 - IWLL – Sales Tax
 - Park user fees
 - Public land use fees
- Push youth programs, additional youth seasons, extend youth turkey season
- Encourage school administration to participate, more education in schools (outdoor rec)
- Expand public land acquisition, promote land donations
- Additional public access to private land – get more to sign up
- Hunter ethics have dropped – media to promote better hunter ethics
- Increase bobcat quota
- Add tags (bobcat and otter) to fur license, split bobcat season
- Increase pheasant population
- Implement sustainable funding
- More boat ramps on rivers
- Boating education
- Bring back deer rifle season
- Cooperation between wildlife groups and livestock groups (grain) to promote hunting and consumption of meat and game
- Easier to hunt in Iowa. Highlight dove fields.
- Physically easier to purchase hunting license (Hunter Ed) mentor license
- Media campaign in urban areas promoting DNR and outdoors.
- Continue to promote other recreation beyond hunting and fishing
- Cooperate with county conservation groups - to improve habitat on areas (native grasses)

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Estherville Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa? What are your favorite activities or initiatives supported by your license dollars?

- Cooperative efforts – water quality
- Communication – stakeholders and DNR
- Land management
- Dove season
- Intra-agency cooperation
- Education and outreach

- Dredging on Five Island
- Shooting sports and other youth programs
- Lifetime licenses (all ages)
- Shallow lakes
- Farm bill biologists
- Fishing in lakes and rivers excellent
- Greater opportunities for recreation
- Des Moines River excellent fishing
- Little Sioux River excellent fishing
- Dove season – want it earlier
- Turkeys in Palo Alto County
- Water quality important with shallow lake management
- The Lost Island lake cleanup is a great project.
- SCTP programs in schools
- Bass fishing
- Waterfowl
- Pheasants
- Jemmerson Refuge improved waterfowl hunting
- Dramatic improvement of grasslands
- Poor management of woodlands
- Panfish bag limit allocates harvest
- Turkey populations in NW Iowa
- Expanded trapping opportunities for bobcat trapping in South Dakota
- Shallow lake management – lake restoration
- Slot fishing as well
- Youth hunting and fishing
- Watershed work – landscape level
- NGO partners – Match monies very good
- Dove hunting – sunflower plots
- Expansion of youth turkey season opportunities/light youth deer season
- Private lands work - plus
- Communication – better – public/DNR
- Promotions non-promotion for fish stocking

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Federal government and farm bill
- Predator control program
- Money
- Legislator – anti-acquisition
- Lack of public education – general public
- Needs for private lands habitat
- Gun rights
- Perception of firearms and hunting
- Limited user facilities
- Invasive species

- Access
- Outfitters on public land
- Cost for non-resident deer licenses
- Time window for deer licenses for non-residents
- Leasing of private lands
- More public land
- Anti-hunters and fishing movement
- Youth seasons concerns – offer mentoring education
- Lack of turkeys in southern Iowa
- Poor job of public relations
- Waterfowling concerns – more restrictions bag limits to save broodstock
- Need more youth out fishing – lack of shore access (natural lakes)
- Deer seasons too long
- Farm Bureau and legislators
- Lack of deer in Northwest Iowa
- Woodland management
- Better cooperation with IDALS
- Tree cutting on state ground
- Three wood duck limit, may have hurt population
- Hunter safety in school system as elective
- Coyotes – predator management
- Tree removal
- Youth involvement/Education
 - Not as much involvement/mom and dad/start at home
 - Other activities/ a lot of them
 - Start at school
 - Increase need – more involvement
 - Increase in field programs for youth
 - Need success for youth
 - Expand programs to involve youth more
 - Investigate reasons for no involvement for outdoor activities
 - Mentor program – needed one on one
 - Need more involvement from school
 - Need to involve those youth at school
 - People's perspective – negative or positive
 - Working with nature centers – just to get them more involved
 - 4-H – another avenue to involving youth
 - Self-education/promotion at all outdoor sports
 - Need more family focus
- Public land – purchase vs. easements for public access
- Public lands in other counties – need more in other counties
- Public access for private lands
- Funding – follow through with the activities through the high school level
- Decline in upland game populations
- Big agriculture – piece of land/cropland uses
- ROW trust fund – help restore

- Regulate chemical application – insecticide use – impacts on wildlife populations – limiting chemical use on agriculture leases on public lands to improve weeds
- Controlled burns – late season
- STEP license – staggered season for NR – similar to South Dakota

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- More youth programs – shooting sports
- Private land access - IHAP
- More license combinations
- DNR blog – youth operation
- Increase habitat and opportunities
- Junior conservationist programs – WPA, WMA managed by youth
- Recognition for private land projects
- Marketing for hunting, fishing and trapping
- Special recognition for youth volunteers
- More media coverage – positive programs, fish stocking, etc.
- Work with IHAS to get shooting sports letter sports
- A course in school
- Fishing clinics in schools
- Fish Iowa – using local partners
- Expand cooperation between DNR and county conservation boards
- Keep acquiring public ground
- Expand mentored hunts
- Have a list of folks who will help with programs and activities
- More youth activity to week day instead of a weekend
- More free fishing weekends. Have someone to guide, mentor or instruct
- Walleye length limit on other lengths – slot limit to provide more opportunity
- Additional designated funding
- License fees
 - Increase
- Lifetime trapping license
- Liability limitations for private landowners
- Lobby legislature for additional funding for DNR use
- Additional license sales
- Continue to use science to improve managing public lands
- Carp management
- Communicate to folks that they can support the FWS trust fund without hunting, fishing or trapping
- Need combination of hunting and trapping license
- Bring conservation programs to the schools – expand those programs
- Network with Cabela's, Bass Pro and other private industries to gain for everyone
 - Follow up with an activity by a mentor

- Idea – buy a license – have an opportunity to donate to FW
- Network more with major school universities

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Hampton Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa, and what are your favorite activities or initiatives supported by your license dollars?

- Dove season
- Deer season will improve with professional DNR management
- Canada goose population
- Turkey population

- Bobcat and otter seasons
- Shallow lake restoration
- River fisheries improving
- Shooting sports improving
- Fishing access has improved
- Private land access program
 - -Public lands management is good
- Good use of money
 - -REAP dollars
- Good job with fish stockings
- Good job balancing and managing deer herd
- Lake restoration projects
 - -Rock reef
- More Kids programs
 - -Fishing clinics
 - -Hunts
- Balance between agribusiness and managing and protecting natural resources
- Trapping opportunities
- Bobcats
- Turkeys
- Lake restoration
- Youth hunts
- Trout
- Free fishing weekend
- Trails
- Canoeing and river access
- Fishing opportunities in local lakes
- Archery deer
- Season lengths and opportunities
- Yellow bass
- Dove season
- Year round opportunities outdoors
- Harvest reporting
- Fish size limits
- Stocking fish
- Habitat diversity
- Phasing out lead shot

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Farm Bureau
- Legislature involved in management fouls things up
- Lack of habitat, particularly for pheasants
- Other users want to use wildlife areas
- Urbanization and society's disconnect with natural resources
- Lack of public lands

- Cost of land
- Anti-land acquisition sentiment
- Animal rights activists and social media campaign
- Low turkey numbers in some locations
- Eliminate party hunting deer
- Commercialization of hunting
- Commodity prices
- Iowa is a Passover state for waterfowl due to lack of habitat
- More youth fishing and hunting
 - -Connect with parents and family support
- More public land and private land for habitat management
 - -Obstacle with the high price of land value
 - -High price of corn
- Better timber management
- School system – introduce these programs
- More safe shooting range areas
- The cost and economy of hunting, fishing, boating
 - -License
 - -Equipment
 - -Fine costs
- Nonresidents overharvest in a concentrated area
- Anti-trapping groups
- Anti-hunting groups
- Anti-fishing groups
- Lack of mentors
- Loss of CRP
- More river otters cause predation of fish
- Low pheasant population – bag limits
- Future funding
- Intensive land use
- Nongame and game management together
- Urban population
- Greed driving up land use of sensitive areas
- Leasing of land for hunting
- Youth education
- Mowing and grazing set aside acres
- Competing with technology
- Water quality declines
- Non-personal hunter education
- Low political awareness
- Fish kill penalties too low
- Managing for economic goals

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow

participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- More cooperation with County Conservation Boards
- Mandatory hunter ed/conservation curriculum in all high schools
- Hunter walk-in access program
- Pass a new sales tax
- Better cooperation between natural resource agencies and tourism department
- More shooting range facilities and funding to improve
- More mentored hunts and fish and trapping
- Money
- Regional specific bag limits
- Better coordination management of the trails program
- Educate urban area residents of natural resource activities and programs and encourage
 - them to increase their outdoor activities
 - increase access on private land
- Limited space for the number of people who want to use it
 - -increase space for the user
- Convenience of obtaining license online
- Federal incentive program to increase access and habitat management
- Regional youth mentor program
 - -connect of contacts
- Partnership together with PF, DU
 - -collaborative effort for youth hunts
 - -work together, not as individual groups
- Improvement of DNR website
 - -better navigation of website
- Get into school system utilizing the “sport” enthusiast, not the paid teachers
- Talks to schools
- Lower youth hunting costs
- Lifetime trapping license
- Staff partnering with local groups
- Urban education focus
- Expand lake restoration/smaller lakes
- Increase pheasant population
- Promote youth participation
- Conservation Boards getting into schools
- Law enforcement presence
- Youth trapper education
- Shooting activities and education in cities
- Archery in schools expanded to other uses
- More DNR and CCB staff for outreach

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Waverly Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Turkeys
- Walleye fishing in the rivers
- Deer population
- Trout fishing and trout stocking
- Game management -- species/diversity is up
- Hunter safety program
- Trapping opportunities (raccoon, bobcat and otter trapping as well as predator hunting)

- Lake renovations (Ventura and Clear Lake specifically mentioned by one group)
- Archery in the schools
- Fishing in general
- Smallmouth bass populations
- Catfishing
- Access to trout streams on private property
- Development of river accesses
- Wood duck populations
- Goose populations
- Third duck zone = more opportunities
- Eagle populations
- Pheasants (used to be)
- Vision – Heading in the right direction
- Trust Fund is protected
- Habitat projects on private property (examples are state forest nursery and dove plots)
- Law enforcement on the lakes (alcohol enforcement)
- Youth deer season
- Multiple deer licenses
- Access to public land (improved, more would be OK)

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Loss of habitat
- Water quality/water pollution (Specifically point source pollution Clear Lake discharge)
- Pheasant population – Predators (red tail hawks, cats, etc.)
- Leased land (access to private lands for hunting)
- Non-resident deer tags (too many, too many NR landowners, leased land, trespassing)
- Lack of access (public and private)
- Not enough \$/Funding
- Loss of hunters – other demands on your time
- Tree and fence row grubbing
- Poor education on farming practices (tiling, buffers, fence rows)
- Lack of public education
- Too many Canada geese – Urban
- Decline in small game – Rabbits
- Educating local FSA
- Not enough staff to help with TSI or prairie burns
- Too many depredation tags
- No permit to guide
- Low-head dam removal – let nature take them down
- Listen to biologists on deer numbers vs politics
- Spend fish restitution money on fish and conservation
- Political – selling state land
- Otters are hard on fish and wildlife/Up numbers?

- Pheasant season too long – January stress
- Bag limit – two birds
- Insufficient penalties
- PWC
- High ag land values
- Weather changing – management not changing (status quo 20 yrs, i.e. timing of burning)
- Invasive species
- Public opinion – PETA
- Too many fees have been added

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Raise more money/increase fees
- Buy more land to provide access – even small tracts
- Increase natural resource education (hunter ed in schools, shooting sports programs)
- Individual partnerships (i.e. adopt an area, in-kind labor, more volunteers)
- Improve communication (internet, advertize, get info out and take info in w/public comments)
- Length limits on inland walleye (15-16") – try in a few experimental areas
- Remove telephones and video games – people are too busy
- Walk-in program – Look at SD and KS
- Take care of land we have
- More youth mentoring and youth seasons
- Target youth for marketing (recruitment, draw in the kids, females – OJ)
- Flexibility and creativity in out-of-state fees
- Increase donations – corporate sponsors
- Move ethanol subsidy to go to fish and wildlife
- Surcharge on chemicals
- Youth deer season is too early
- Otter control
- Stock (re-establish) pheasants in quality areas
- Trade turkeys
- Limit the number of deer tags an individual can receive
- No antler market
- Lifetime trapping license
- Focus habitat for pheasants on public land
- Less mowing of waterways, ditches, etc.
- Better farming practices for wildlife
- Mandatory buffers on creeks
- Stricter dumping laws
- Chemical impacts on wildlife and water (pesticides, insects, herbicides)
- More to stop poaching
- Review crop leases on state land

- Sales tax increase needed for outdoor recreation
- Reduce fees for youth
- Urban hunting opportunities
- More landowner contacts (habitat improvements – showcase good ones)
- More DNR people
- Trust Fund protection – Stay vigilant for change
- Need habitat improvement on area lakes (Sportsman Pond, Brinker Lake)
- Need access improvement on rivers

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Indianola Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Bass fishing
- Deer hunting
- Overall outdoor experiences
- Increase Youth Participation
- Diverse outdoor opportunities
- Archery in schools-good!
- Need for water quality, improvement is recognized

- Building partners and reaching out for public input
- Better walleye fishing
- Dove season
- Better fishing access
- Improved knowledge of conservation among public in the past 10 yrs
- Ammo (lead) costs haven't increased
- Strong deer herd/turkey population
- Increase Fish habitat improvement projects
- Successful bobcat/otter programs
- Pheasant/quail Increasing
- Ahquabi Water quality-Improvement
- Lake Improvement Program
- Larger Lake Fishing Improved
- Dove Hunting Season
- Waterfowl Hunting
- Dove Mgmt Fields
- Deer Mgmt Quota Adjustments
- Fishing Stocking Programs
- Private land program expanding around public
- Middle River Waterfowl opportunities (Deals)
- Website upgrade
- Changing DNR Leadership
- Youth Programs (General)
 - Archery in Schools
 - Trap Programs (4-H) Locally
- DNR leveraging money with NGOs

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Increased urbanization
- Cost of non-res license cost/draw
- Public perception of hunting/anti-hunting
- Increase restrictions made by non scientific reasons/perceptions
- Participants resistant to change
- Too few law enforcement officers
- Understaffed DNR
- Habitat loss/degrading water quality/fish and amphibian diversity loss
- Poor, modern agricultural practices, equipment, pesticides, herbicides and soil erosion
- Pan fish bag limits
- Youth opportunities

- Schools afraid of gun training
- Urban yard and runoff issues
- Drop in license sales/participation
- Attempts at restrictions on traditional shot
- Education of Youth + Public in general
 - Lack of outdoor education at the family level
- Politics can complicate outdoor education
- Lack of Access (Hunting and Fishing)
- Spending money unnecessarily when info is available from other states
- Lack of Pheasants
- Revenue flow improvement from year to year
- Political influence on regulations
- Effective enforcement of existing Resource Laws
- DNR program visibility Limited for the general public
- Political impacts on Dept. operations and policies
- Overall Funding limitations

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- HUSH needs expanded for geese
- More collaboration with SWCD's and others
- More food plots on public ground
- Increase mentoring programs
- Better cooperation among groups to improve public percept. of hunting
- Continue to expose teachers to DNR activities
- More public meetings/comments
- Increase public awareness of public meetings
- Increase stakeholders in projects (Fishing clubs, IKES, etc.)
- Increase shooting opportunities for youth
- Model practices after other states, universities and outside research (1)
- Improved communication with public
- Fishing needs to be in schools P.E.
- Conservation curriculum in schools
- Bragging board on DNR website
- Use FACEBOOK to contact kids
- Public user support of Dept. programs and policy
- Expanding club and NGO promotions of youth Programs

- Improve DNR self promotion
- Create friends group for community participate with Dept. Programs
- DNR Personnel educate local legislators.
- Understanding NGO limitations for local projects
- Expanded land acquisitions
- Seek private sector funding of land acquisition

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Lake Darling State Park Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Professional Staff
- Fisheries/Stocking (walleye) trout
- Shooting Sports (Ben Berka's program)
- Facilities-response to needs-boat ramps, etc.
- Water Quality-Mississippi River-watershed work
- Partnerships
- Depredation response
- Passed IWILL

- Dove Season
- Private Lands Biologists assistance
- Dove hunting (& Other hunting Deer/Turkey)
- Mentoring with Kids (Hunter safety & dove hunting mentoring)
- Duck Hunting
- Easier access for duck hunting at some areas
- Crappie angling –Rathbun
- Pan fish Bag limits
- Fly fishing area ponds/lakes
- Pond fishing

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Politics
- Habitat
- Water Quality (chemicals)
- Land use / Crop prices
- License prices (Economics)
- Poor economy
- Other activities for kids
- Demands of employers
- Lack of instilling outdoor values in kids
- Changing societal values
- Liability – communication of laws
- Access to private hunting land
- Lack of access to schools for outdoor activities – Hook and Bullet
- Commission acting incorrectly –steel shot for doves
- Flood damage – not repaired: Money could be short – Better communication needed with DNR activities. The reference to damage property was one specific DNR facility that has yet to be fixed since the last flooding event.
- Lack of youth involvement in hunting and shooting sports
- Lack of funding
- Lack of places to hunt
- Price of Ammo, gas

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Education/campaign/partnerships-get kids excited
- Expand winter trout program
- Controlled hunt opportunities (Odessa)

- Technology / reservation systems, etc. Self-registration systems
- Improve website/brochures/distribution of info -Quality experience
- Make sure information/brochures are update/replaced – courthouses, etc.
- Need to increase quality hunting opportunities and fishing
- Minimum length limit on Walleyes in stocked waters
- Some way to stop the loss of habitat - education
- Mentored dove hunts ... Leads to other hunting interests
- Public shooting ranges...Shooting sports leads to other hunting interests
- Fishing clinics... partner with service clubs and other stakeholder groups. (partnering is significant)
- Outdoor education ethics
- Free small game hunting weekend
- Short term inexpensive non-resident hunting license - youth

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

McGregor Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Trout program
- Walleye stocking (interior rivers)
- Successful Hunter Education Program in schools
- Public hunting areas – Benefits birds & other species / Continue to build on larger tracts – 1,000+ ac.; place to go; more room
- Deer population – Good / Matter of perspective
- Opportunities – Youth hunts
- Cooperation with public – Landowners, stream bank restoration
- Work ethic and dedication of staff
- Staff – Professional, well educated
- Crossing lines with other agencies – Fire departments

- Good job protecting hunting opportunities for residents – DNR & legislature
- Water Safety Program – Great/successful
- Excellent job with wildlife restoration
- Wildlife Fund protection
- Turkeys – Good
- Mississippi River fish going well – Bluegill healthy and big, yellow perch coming back, northern pike
- Canada geese – Good
- Access to rivers have improved – but still could be improved more
- Handicapped accessible areas
- State forests
- Forest management
- Frog & toad surveys – Public involved

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Pheasant numbers down – Plan / Hard winters / Too many predators, loss of pheasant hunting opportunities & loss of license sales due to \$1M
- Lack of Funding – Lot of people use land – diverse ways – but not paying their own way / Need for sustainable funding, decreasing funds due to fewer antlerless tags / Need to increase pool of taxpayers (not just hunting/fishing)
- Grouse numbers down – Turkey competition, 4 types of habitat needed (Clayton Co), too much competition / Too many predators
- Distractions to outdoor activities / Competition for young people involved in outdoor activities, get kids outside more
- Politics – DNR needs to be advocate for natural resources not agriculture / Political pressure (Farm Bureau) not letting field staff do their (DNR) job managing fish & wildlife
- Hunting & angling education needs to increase / Need more exposure in the schools /
- Marketing – A day on the river (WI DNR- Valley Fish) / Market the programs for more Awareness
- Lack of enforcement & regulation of factory farming and land practices / Private and public landowners need more regulation for public agriculture practices
- Land use – Changes detrimental to wildlife, larger farms, fewer diverse fencerows / Fish & wildlife habitat lost to bulldozers tied to urban sprawl = decreased hunting and fishing opportunities
- Hunting access to private land – Absentee landowners tying up land / Trophy hunting only
- Raccoons – Need open season / road kill coon, season ends too soon, weekends only, issue for campground and farmers, WI opens in Oct 1 - Open
- Quail & rabbit numbers down – Too many predators
- 70% pastured timber – turkey stocking – compete
- Use of Round-up around streams on public ag land
- Tubers/canoes trashing the river – need law enforcement on interior rivers
- Rules & regulations – so many, young hunters get frustrated
- Cost of licenses
- Leased public ag land is for wildlife not to benefit farmers

- When DNR manages land and lets it grow naturally – Why, grass better streamside cover.
- Too many deer – excessive in some areas, crop damage
- Tag deer before move – tag when hanging (lose tag in dragging)
- Invasive species – Zebra mussels, Asian carp
- Shift in cultural changes – BB gun use by children
- Fishing pressure increased at certain times – times of year (spring walleye/sauger), decrease opportunities for others, small sauger
- Not enough no-wake/shoreline fishing opportunities
- Trout Streams – Bloody run used to flood, not as much easy access, good holes/washouts not there, not as many holes, overgrown; Sny Magill & Bear Creek watershed is the problem
- Big rain events blow out habitat improvements, not as effective
- Change in public perception needed – Communication of what DNR does
- Lack of communicating of volunteer opportunities to youth
- Anti-hunters – threaten hunting and gun owners

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Increase education of landowners (rules of the road for waterways)
- Provide more volunteer programs/opportunities – Youth and retirees
- Educational opportunities within the schools – Increase child participation, mandatory education (not just Hunter Ed), after-school programs, part of curriculum (biology/physical education...somewhere in school)
- License fees for non-consumptive users (birders, bikers) equivalency fee
- Watershed programs for landowners
- Hunter Ed mandatory in schools – Use REAP funds, physical education, biology class
- Youth and hunter recruitment
- Increase communication on available programs and retirees
- Increase programs for seasonal opportunities
- Increase opportunities for non-consumptive uses with consumptive uses
- Sales tax increase
- Use ATV to take deer off public lands
- Open raccoon season 30 days sooner
- Tag deer when hanging
- Otter season too short – Increase quota
- Do not allow pre-setting traps – increase opportunities to others
- Crossbows available to all hunters – increase revenue and participation
- Lower license fees
- Sportsman's license (Ding Darling) – hunting, deer, habitat, fur harvester
- Fishing – best opportunity to increase number of anglers
- Habitat for fish in Mississippi, especially ice fishing areas – use TSI trees, riprap, volunteers
- Stock trout in more areas

- Lowhead dam removal to improve fishing and canoeing opportunities on interior rivers (i.e. Vernon Springs and Charles City)
- Increase ATV opportunities to increase fund income/revenue – license all ATV's (ag license and regular license)

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Pisgah Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Deer hunting – herd managed well
- Turkey hunting, geese
- Fishing at Loess hills pond
- Lake restoration
- Lots of non-game (increasing)
- Trout program
- Trapping
- Campgrounds in good shape
- Increased hiking/horse trails
- Youth hunting seasons
- Bobcats

- HUSH program
- Good fishing opportunities
 - Walleye at Storm Lake
- Lots of hunting seasons (lots of choices)
- Overall deer and turkey populations
- Sustainability of hunting
- Opportunities/places to hunt
- Habitat walk-in program – Success!
- Harvest reporting
- General public acceptance/perception of hunters and hunting
- Internet license purchase
- Law enforcement is doing a great job

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Too many deer
- Competition for youth
- Poor land mgmt – Round Lake, Novels Lake
- Waterfowl flyways shifting
- Later waterfowl season needed
- Pheasant season too long – too many predators
- Ag chemicals impacting pheasants
- Losing prairie habitat
- Losing hunting tradition – mentoring
- Lack of hunting access/public land
- Legislation F/G mgmt – non-science based- political
- Lack of hunting/fishing/conservation in school
- Changing Ag prices
- Not enough pheasants
- ANS species – Asian carp
- Loss of habitat – conversion to row crop
- Loss of CRP
- Leased hunting ground
- Land costs too high to own my own place to hunt
- Deer herd (population) problems when land leased or limited hunting
- Less license buyers when populations low (pheasants/ducks)
- River accesses, boat ramps, access facilities on public areas
- CWD potential effects
- Landowners afraid of liability of allowing access for hunting, trapping and fishing
- Less funding, reduced lakes restoration funding

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow

participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Donations to local projects
- Have 2 weekends of Free Fishing
- Volunteer programs – outdoor activities and mentoring programs
- Outdoor activities in school curriculum
- Adjust waterfowl season – later
- More special license options
- DNR needs to communicate successes
- Continue/expand lake restoration program
- Build more lakes where needed
- Stock more fish
- Expand/continue walk-in program = more places to hunt, compensate landowners for access and habitat
- Protect private land that is too sensitive to row crop
- How to engage/benefit from non-consumptive users (birders)
- Increase license fees to continue/improve wildlife, fishing opportunities
- Encourage doe harvest, continue to address hotspots of deer problems
- Interaction with youth (hunt/fish/trap programs)
- Improve pheasant populations – consider moving birds (introductions)
- Incentives to landowners for habitat (private lands program)

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Keosauqua Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- Trapping still allowed in road right-of-ways
- Habitat Stamp and all it pays for
- Hush program
- Doe harvest going well, issue more licenses, population is going down
- Dove hunting
- Dove food plots in area—good
- Good wildlife unit in Sugema Unit
- Walk in hunting program idea (IHAP)
- Sales tax—IWILL—portion goes to Trust Fund for land conservation
- Access still available

- Abundance of some species (deer, geese) and less of others (quail, pheasants, rabbits, turkey and deer in some areas)
- Abundance of predators/varmints
- Increased fishing opportunities
- Trout fishing in NE Iowa
- Mentoring programs: bow, shooting
- Pheasant hunting
- Trapping: Bobcat and otter are a plus
- Deer hunting
- Fishing: warm water species

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Outfitters
- Nonresident hunters taking up hunting spots by leasing or buying
- Access to hunting ground
- Need to recognize outfitting as a commercial business
- Trespassing
- Loss of habitat
- Nonresident landowners
- Too high deer numbers on leased land, need more harvest on those areas
- Illegal use of landowner tags
- Expense involved—tackle, guns, ammo, license
- Land prices
- Young people not interested
- Anti gun and hunting influence
- Need to get kids exposed to hunting and guns
- Invasive species (Asian carp)
- Trapping ethics
- Paddlefish size limits
- Impediments to upstream fish migration—dams
- Nonresident hunting regulation—illegal deer harvest by nonresidents
- More Cites tag check-in locations
- Want more opportunities for hunting bobcats as opposed to trapping
- Need to harvest more raccoons
- Competition with sports, video games, etc.
- Weather and habitat is hurting populations
- Large predator population, better control needed
- Invasive species (Asian carp)
- Shocking of lake, fish don't bite during a period after
- Political decisions not based on biological data or influence (dove/lead/steel shot issue)
- Nonresident hunters locking up the land for use
- Private land locked up causes a reduction in license sales
- Walk-in program—reduction or not utilized locally

- Lack of support to programs in the schools
- Hunter safety/shooting sports removed or not part of schools
- Education on firearms (Education on firearms reduces problems)
- Way too many biologists—need better field experience and unqualified
- Access-- Competition for land: outfitters land, leasing
- Deer seasons too long (harvest conflict, trapping issues, predators)
- Lack of funding
- Water quality
- Lack of mentoring for shooting sports
- Lack of public sites
- Outdoor training lacking in schools—mentoring issues (some laws prevent guns)
- Competing special interest groups: lobbyists, decision makers—water quality and other issues could be solved here

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Educating kids, getting into elementary schools
- More DNR relationships with outdoor groups (PF, DU, etc)
- DNR sponsored fishing tournaments and shooting sports
- Close contact of DNR employees with stakeholders
- Sportsmen need to take more young people hunting and fishing—mentoring
- Get more kids outdoor exposure, consumptive and non-consumptive
- Big brother program
- Earn-a-buck program for nonresidents
- Get 4H involved
- Get young people involved, educational programs geared for them
- Mentored experiences at schools (shooting sports, trapping)
- More use to public lands, multiple use areas
- IWILL sales tax
- Protect current funds
- Increase in other ways than the recreational licenses
- Game bird populations need to increase (pheasant and turkey are down) for hunting
- Half price hunting licenses for 12-16 year-olds or little older for first license
- Increase education/participation of DNR staff and programs
- Develop partnerships with other interested groups: 4H, CCB, etc.
- License fees—keep fees affordable
- More DNR public meetings
- Legislative conservation days

YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS, YOUR LEGACY

Anamosa Forum

What is currently going well for fishing, hunting and trapping in Iowa?

- DNR is very approachable/easy to talk to, doors open to private people
- Good deer numbers, herd management is good
- Hatcheries
- Trout stocking
- Very scenic lakes/rivers/fishing
- Holding public forums
- Archery in schools
- Good current resources for fishing and new projects underway
- Continue land acquisition when we have opportunities
- Prairie restorations
- Hunter access program

- Goose population
- State Fair exhibit
- Complaints on programs low
- Keep program: funds more for habitat
- Hunter education
- How we handle non-resident landowners is good

What do you perceive as the roadblocks/threats to the future of hunting, fishing and trapping in Iowa, today as well as 5-10 years and beyond?

- Lake Macbride motor restrictions limiting access, “no wake” any sized motors
- Use nontoxic shot shells for all species
- Information/education pro’s and con’s of “nontoxic”, access to information
- Promote nontoxic stuff in regulations like MN DNR
- Public perception of pheasant hunting – how hunting hurts the population
- Need to get pheasant population back!
- People with CRP should be able to stock pheasants
- Promote heavy cover. Not burn cover
- Better CRP management
- Distribution of wildlife – uneven
- Habitat degradation/loss, soil loss, loss of trees
- Need to get more involved in schools – ex. Bass clubs/tournaments and other clubs and sanctioned activities
- Some rules/regulations don’t really benefit the resources
- DNR staff too limited – spread too thin
- Costs prohibitive to the ‘occasional hunter’
- Urban sprawl
- Invasive species – Wild pigs
- Info on website needs to be current

What, if anything, do you think the DNR in partnership with hunting, fishing, and trapping recreational users and conservation groups should be doing to grow participation and conservation of natural resources in the next 5-10 years and beyond?

- Website – Simplify DNR website (don’t know where to look / permits are hard to find – fishing tournament, special events / “Ask a question section”)
- Information – Put out more information, both good and bad (news releases, surveys) – pass info to private sector (current events, DNR pays taxes)
- More and better communication on our current opportunities and natural resource information
- Brochures – a lot of people do not have internet access, let them know where to go
- Mapping of public lands & signage – general maps at entrances
- Licenses are confusing – deer
- Raise price on specialty seasons or limited seasons
- Explain ‘why’

- DNR [staff] always needs to 'call back', does not happen often
- Things like ruffed grouse management not explained to public, probably not working
- Promote 'heavy cover' – quality habitat
- Network with people...make it personal, make relationships...keep grass roots communication
- Snowmobile trails needed
- Info needed on other funds (ATV/Boat)
- Mentored hunts/fishing – coordinate with partners, schools, send letters home with kids. Ask questions "Do you need help with your child's hunting and fishing needs?" Find groups that can help
- No fishing tournaments during *free fishing weekend*.
- User fees for equestrian use and non-consumptive users
- More license options at reduced costs for kids/students
- Allow short-term licenses to be applied toward an annual license if so desired
- Increase after-school programs to get students involved
- Bounty or incentives to eradicate invasive species (special licenses for invasive species hunting/harvest)
- Improve education on stream access
- Work with farmers/educate them on conservation practices